

TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH OF:

OFFICE ACTION

Of : December 30, 2005
Applicant : Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.
Application No. : 101 45 505.4-31
Response due by: April 17, 2006

The numbers of the following references are cited in this Office Action for the first time and will be used consecutively throughout the examination proceedings:

- (1) US 5,896,575 A
- (2) EP 0 776 140 B1
- (3) WO 00/59179 A1
- (4) GB 2 343 324 A
- (5) DE 26 06 691 A1

I

Reference (1) already discloses a method for displaying in a folder-type mobile terminal including a main body [104] and a sub-body [102] mounted to the main body, said sub-body having a first display [114] mounted on an outer side and a second display [118] mounted on an inner side thereof, the method comprising

- upon receipt of a message, while the sub-body is folded, displaying an indicator [110] indicating receipt of a message on the first display [116],
- and at a user's external display request [108], displaying the received message on the first display.

It is true that a "sliding display" is not provided as a display mode in said reference (1), but the message is there displayed in the usual mode.

The measure of "slidingly displaying" on a display a message which is too large for said display is, however, well-known in connection with mobile terminals. Only by way of example, the applicant's attention is drawn to the communication terminal according to reference

(5), cf. there claim 2 as well as page 4, upper half. It follows that, when the person skilled in the art is, in accordance with the statement of task according to the present application, confronted with the problem of displaying a large message on a small display, he will also take into account such a "sliding display". An inventive step cannot be substantiated by this course of action.

Also reference (2) shows, like reference (1), a folder-type mobile terminal having an outer display and an inner display, the outer display being also intended to be used for displaying the information which normally has to be displayed on mobile phones, cf. there paragraphs [0015, 0023] as well as claim 1. In the case of mobile phones these message can e.g. also be text messages (SMS).

Also each of the references (3) and (4) already shows, like reference (1), a folder-type mobile terminal having an outer as well as an inner display, both said displays displaying explicitly the same information, cf. in reference (3): page 4, lines 12-19, and in reference (4) the Abstract. It is explicitly stated that, in the folded condition, information on the receipt of messages is to be displayed on the outer display, cf. Fig. 2 in reference (3) and pages 6/7 in reference (4). It follows that, after having been retrieved, received messages can be read from inside as well as from outside.

Said references do not disclose in detail how the messages are retrieved, but a person skilled in the art will already read into said references that the messages are retrieved by pressing a key provided on the outside, since it is there explicitly disclosed that a control key [18], which can also be operated in the folded condition, is provided on the side of the housing. As is generally known, such a key is used for selecting menu items of mobile phones, said menu items including, as is generally known, also a display of messages.

II

The subject matters of claims 7 and 8, which are formulated as parallel claims, are, in principle, further developments of the method according to claim 1, since said method only has added thereto additional features, viz.

- that, in addition, a message received time and a caller's phone number are fixedly displayed on a second line of the outer display (claim 7);

- that this fixed display on the second line is only effected, if said second line actually exists (claim 8).

Such a dependence must also be expressed unequivocally from the formal point of view by formulating the claims such that they depend on claim 1.

With regard to the content of these claims:

Each of the references (3) –(5) already discloses that also additional information is displayed. In mobile phones, which are articles of everyday life, this additional information includes in the case of incoming calls the caller's phone number and in the case of text messages also the message received time in addition to the actual message.

Causing this information to be displayed on a separate line, provided that such a line exists on the display, is only an organizational measure which is obvious to those skilled in the art. An inventive step cannot be substantiated by this measure.

III

After the rejection of the superior claim 1, claims 2 to 6, which depend on said claim 1, are not allowable either – not least for formal reasons. Moreover, the characterizing features of these claims are already known from the prior art ascertained.

The characterizing feature of claim 2, viz. that the user transmits his request by pressing a key, is again known from reference (1), cf. the above-mentioned text passages and figures.

The characterizing feature of claim 3, viz. that, when the message is slidingly displayed, the content of the message is shifted by a predetermined number of characters (bytes), is only logical and must be assumed to exist also in the case of reference (5).

With regard to claims 4 and 5:

that additional secondary information, such as RSSI, time, state of the accumulator, etc., is displayed is common practice in the case of mobile phones.

Displaying this information only in response to a manual request on the part of the user, e.g. in response to pressing a key which is accessible from outside, is only a normal course of action of those skilled in the art.

With regard to claim 6: displaying, in addition to the actual content of a received message, also the associated receive information, such as receive time and sender, is a feature with which a mobile phone is normally provided.

If, due to lack of space on the display, the actual message must be slidingly displayed, this will, of course, apply to the secondary information as well.

IV

If the applicant should still see inventive features in the documents, it will – for continuing the proceedings - be necessary to submit a new claim 1 which is directed to these features and which should be new and also sufficiently inventive in comparison with the prior art that has become known. The additional documents should then be adapted to this new claim and *

V

On the basis of the documents presently on file, grant of a patent is not possible; nor can such grant of a patent be envisaged. On the contrary, rejection of the application will have to be reckoned with.

If the applicant does not intend to submit a reply in the present matter, the Examiner would be grateful to receive an informal acknowledgement of the receipt of this Office Action.

Patent Examiner for class H 04 Q

Dipl.-Ing. Lutz Papke

Encl.

copies of 5 references

(in duplicate)

* Translator's note:

the rest of the paragraph is missing in the German text